



city of
greenville

News Release

CITY AND PARTNERS ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE GREENVILLE

\$1.8 million planning study underway for Greenville's west side

(Greenville SC) Last night, the City officially kicked off *Connections for Sustainability*, a comprehensive planning effort that is aimed at establishing connections between affordable housing, transportation options, economic development opportunities and open space throughout the city, with a focus on Greenville's west side. The study is made possible by community planning grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), along with other significant local and federal contributions. Anticipated outcomes of the study include a citywide housing strategy, a feasibility study for a bus rapid transit route and transit-oriented development and a comprehensive plan to guide the future growth of Greenville's west side.

The City has hired Development Concepts, Inc., a planning and development firm based in Indianapolis, to complete a citywide housing strategy. This comprehensive assessment will focus on Greenville's housing inventory, current and future housing needs and a strategic plan to promote a variety of housing options while enhancing existing neighborhoods.

The City has also selected Omaha-based HDR Engineering, Inc., which specializes in architecture, engineering and consulting, to complete a transportation and bus rapid transit plan as part of the *Connections for Sustainability* project. This plan will focus on the west side of Greenville to identify ways to incorporate transit into existing and future development. The plan will also assess a potential bus rapid transit route from the CUICAR campus to the Amtrak station in downtown Greenville that could support future transit-oriented development.

Extensive citizen participation will be integral to the success of the project and the City is committed to having an open, inclusive process with a variety of forums and opportunities designed to attract a broad cross-section of citizens. Locally-based urban planning firm Arnett

Muldrow & Associates will help ensure the public is involved in all steps of the project and that their input is reflected in the community vision. Further public education and outreach will be provided through a Livability Studio and Livability Educator. The Livability Studio, to be located in the West Greenville Community Center, will provide a hub for community outreach. The Livability Educator is currently working with AJ Whittenberg Elementary School to integrate sustainability and livability principles into the classroom as well as developing outreach materials and educational programs for after school programs, community centers and residents.

For more information, visit <http://connections.greenvillesc.gov/> and subscribe to the monthly newsletter for project updates and ways to get involved in the planning process.

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Media Contact: Wayne Leftwich, AICP
Community Planner
(864) 467-4574